

## *The President's Daily Brief*

11 August 1969

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

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The lull in Soviet military air activity continued  
throughout the weekend.

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The Soviet chief delegate to the Romanian party congress, Katushev, visited a machine tool factory on Friday. While he repeated several major points of his generally critical address to the congress, he spoke in a friendly vein and ended with the declaration "long live the unshakeable friendship between Romania and the Soviet Union." The entire text of his remarks were carried by the Romanian party daily Scinteia on Saturday. The declaration of friendship was absent in Katushev's address to the congress and may reflect Moscow's desire to soften the impact of his critical remarks at the congress.

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The Soviets again successfully test fired the PL-1 ballistic missile on Saturday. The missile flew some 3,100 miles from Plesetsk to Kamchatka. The maximum range of this missile is not yet known,

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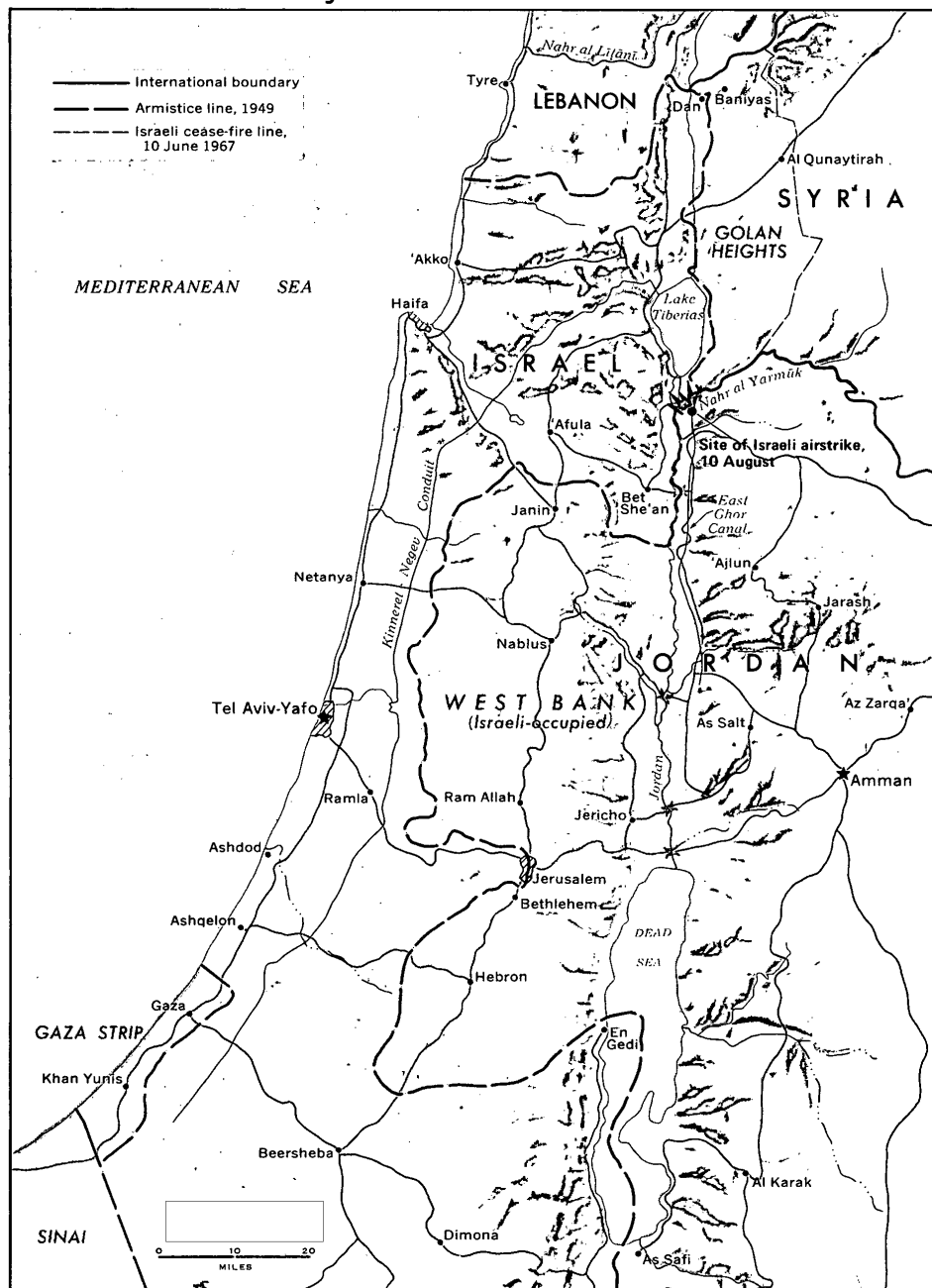
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# Israelis Hit East Ghor Canal Again



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## MIDDLE EAST

Israeli planes again severed the East Ghor Canal yesterday at the same place where it was cut in late June. King Husayn's spokesman asked the US to inform Israel that workers would attempt to repair the canal and, if they were fired on, the result would be escalation "on a scale never before witnessed on the Jordanian-Israeli front."

When told of the Jordanian position, the Israeli foreign ministry said Tel Aviv could not allow the canal to be repaired without more solid guarantees against related military actions. The last time the canal was cut the Israelis fired on workers attempting to repair the break and it was three weeks before they would allow repairs to be made. Amman later indicated that only a small contingent of workmen would survey damages to the canal today and Husayn instructed the army to exercise restraint, at least throughout the morning.

The Jordanians are in a highly emotional state and the consequences could be as serious as they predict.

## VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks requested a private meeting with Mr. Habib on 9 August, the first time since January that the Communists have taken the initiative in asking for a private meeting. Nguyen Minh Vy, who represented the North Vietnamese, offered nothing new. He did, however, ask for clarification of a number of points raised by Habib, including such matters as requirements for

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mutual troop withdrawal, its relation to the political process in South Vietnam, and our views on a neutral South Vietnam.

Vy told Habib that the North Vietnamese thought the private meetings were worthwhile and that Hanoi does not want long gaps between them. He said that was why he had asked for this one.

Vy's performance suggests that the North Vietnamese want to keep the channel of private meetings open and functioning but that they are not yet ready to begin transmitting any real message of their own. Habib made it clear to Vy, however, that the US expects Hanoi to begin opening up now that we have fully explained our position on a number of points.

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